

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

**INFORMATION REPORT**

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 15 November 1948

SUBJECT Plans and instructions for the  
Issuance of the Personalausweis

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(LISTED BELOW)

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80  
722

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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1. The SIA is ordering the introduction of a German identity document called Deutscher Personalausweis, previously referred to as Inlandspass, for the Soviet Zone and Greater Berlin on 1 December 1948. Lust, Head of the Administrative Police Department, GAI, believes that it is extremely doubtful personnel and technical difficulties could be overcome in time to permit the inauguration of the issue before that date.

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2. In a letter to the Statistical Division, Berlin Magistrat, received on 13 November, Major Otchkin, on behalf of the "Soviet Military Commandant of Berlin", instructed the Magistrat to work out the necessary technical measures in cooperation with "Police President Paul Markgraf".

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Comment: This is obviously a propaganda measure to emphasize the Soviet thesis that Berlin is part of the Soviet Zone. The order cannot be enforced in the western sectors.)

3. Classes began on 11 November at the Advanced Police School, Berlin-Pankow, for the purpose of training 720 administrative police from the Soviet Zone to issue the Personalausweis. Consecutive classes of 120 students will be instructed each two days. Sixty Berlin administrative police also have been ordered to take training for the issuance of the pass in the Soviet Sector of Berlin.

4. Responsible officials of the GAI estimate that at least one third of the Soviet Zone population will not have all the documents required to establish the right to an Personalausweis. The great difficulty faced is in the investigation of persons lacking required documents because of willful destruction or through war damage of personal and public records. The careful investigation of all statements in lieu of documents would far overtax the facilities of the Soviet Zone Criminal Police. Responsible GAI officials believe that the investigation of all Personalausweis applicants would prevent the performance of normal Kripo functions for months.

5. The Personalausweis is being printed by Giesecke and Devrient, Leipzig. The order calls for fifteen and one half million passes, sufficient to cover all individuals over 15 years of age, including Berlin. The complete transition to the new identity document will take a minimum of six months.

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Next Review Date: 2008

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6. The Personalausweis contains twelve pages printed on special paper with serial numbers on every second page. Entries are to be made with special ink only and dry stamps.
7. There will be three types of passes:
- a. Allgemeine, with serial numbers preceded by the letters A through E for the five Länder, and F for Berlin.
  - b. Foreigner.
  - c. Stateless.
- Both b and c are without the letter in the serial number.
8. Instructions to the GAI personnel on the introduction of the new pass stated that one of the purposes is to catch illegal residents and travelers in the Soviet Zone. Besides the usual personality information and picture, the pass contains five blank pages for official entries. The most novel control feature is on the last three pages of the pass consisting of a chronological record of the changes of address to be filled by local police authorities.

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**Comment:** Issuance of the Personalausweis is significant because of the timing and the possibility that it will be used to further restrict and possibly eliminate the travel of west Berliners in the Soviet Zone and the Soviet Sector. In view of the long period required for the changeover, the Personalausweis cannot be effective immediately as a blockade measure.)

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